



It's going to be a
great weekend!



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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY
PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

SUNDAY:	MONDAY:	TUESDAY:	WEDNESDAY:	THURSDAY:	FRIDAY:	SATURDAY:
MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	ANDERSON BAHAMON SINGER 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	JEAN PAUL SAXOPHONIST 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	MAILLEYN ALVARADO VIOLINIST 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	MAILLEYN ALVARADO VIOLINIST 7:00 TO 9:00 P.M.	RICKY THOMAS GUITAR 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.



Happy Hour
12-1 / 4-6 / 9-10

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Juan Valdez Café | Hungry Piranha - Pizza, Wings & More
The Brownstone Ribs and Seafood | The Market
Shalom Body & Soul Spa | Moments & Memories Jewelry
Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard
Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts
Treasure Cove | El Patio Tacos & Tequila | M8 Boutique
Fusion Restaurant, Tapas, Wine & Piano Bar

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Light, flight, and rights: 250 years of U.S. history in 30 objects

Washington, United States

How do you choose just 30 artifacts from millions to encapsulate 250 years of American history?

That's the question the government-funded Smithsonian Institution posed itself as the United States gears up for the anniversary of the nation's July 4, 1776, Declaration of Independence.

Among the answers: a small ink-stained mahogany desk, an antique light bulb, a brown leather flight suit and a baseball jersey. These exhibits and others that present some highlights of America's faltering progress toward a perfect union go on show for two months in Washington next Tuesday ahead of the semiquincentennial.

"It's a daunting task," said Abeer Saha, who was one of a handful of curators tasked with choosing from 150 million objects across the Smithsonian which runs more than 20 museums and galleries. He spent more than two years on the project.



"What we've tried to do is find those highlights, those moments, those stories that best exemplify the ways in which Americans have sought to realize the founding ideals first expressed in the Declaration of Independence by Thomas Jefferson."

President Donald Trump has taken a series of norm-shattering steps to put himself at the center of attention on the 250th Indepen-

dence anniversary. But Abeer said the painstaking selection of artifacts, which have never been in the same room before, was done without any political interference.

To an AFP reporter, the only visible imprint of the current U.S. president -- whose administration has also sought to sanitize negative history at U.S. national parks was a "Trump-Vance" election campaign badge alongside those of a roster of

modern presidents from both parties.

- Freedom, innovation, pathfinders -

The exhibition, "American Aspirations," is housed in a vaulted red sandstone hall inside the grand Smithsonian Castle, the institute's original premises on the National Mall. It was previewed by journalists on Thursday.

Appropriately enough, it starts with the small desk

used by Jefferson to draft the declaration of independence from Britain that began with the timeless words: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

The desk looks more like a small, table-top easel. It was designed for Jefferson by a Philadelphia cabinet maker and folds out to reveal a green baize writing top.

Lisa Kathleen Graddy, a Smithsonian curator of American political history, said Jefferson had an eye on history, and affixed a note to the inside of the desk authenticating it as the one used to write the declaration.

Nearby, is a large poster, with text penned by famed slavery abolitionist Frederick Douglass, that was carried in a 1863 parade during the Civil War that calls "Men of Color, To Arms! To Arms!"

It is one of several exhibits that address the struggle for greater freedom over the centuries, including against slavery and in modern times for civil rights. □

Poison? More artists flee Trump's U.S. anniversary concerts

Washington, United States

The White House's troubled bid for a star-studded musical celebration of the 250th anniversary of US independence took yet another hit Friday after three more acts pulled out, citing political tensions.

President Donald Trump's administration had publicized multiple headliners for a concert series between June 25 and July 10 on the National Mall in Washington.

However, the event is floundering as one act after another withdraws.

On Friday, glam rocker Bret Michaels and country star Martina McBride joined the Commodores and two other groups announcing they would not take part. This left only four of the line-up originally announced on Wednesday intact.

Those include Vanilla Ice,

C+C Music Factory, Flo Rida, and the surviving member of the duo Milli Vanilli, who haven't had a new hit in more than a decade.

Michaels, frontman of 1980s band Poison of "Every Rose Has Its Thorn" fame said Friday on Facebook that he made a "difficult decision to step away from this per-

formance."

"My shows have never been about politics. They're about giving people a place to come together, have a great time and forget about life's stresses for a few hours," he said.

"Unfortunately, what was presented to us as a celebration of our country has evolved into something

much more divisive than what I agreed to be a part of."

"Freedom 250" celebration organizers say they are nonpartisan, but Trump has openly tried to stamp his mark on this summer's anniversary most notably by staging an ultra-violent mixed martial arts fight in a specially constructed arena on the White House lawn on June 14 his 80th birthday.

Award-winning country singer McBride announced she too will not be performing at the "Great American State Fair" next month.

"I was presented with an opportunity to perform at a nonpartisan event but that turned out to be misleading," she told her fans in a post on X.

They join several other acts abandoning the program or dismissing rumors

they would perform: rapper Young MC, best known for 1989's smash hit "Bust a Move;" Musician Morris Day and the Time, who once collaborated with Prince; and Grammy-winning soul group Commodores.

"The Commodores will not be performing" at the event, the band posted late Thursday on Instagram. "We support the betterment of all Americans."

With artists fleeing, the Democratic Party on Friday trolled Trump's event, posting an image of the nine announced performers, with Xs over the five cancelled acts. By contrast, on Wednesday night the nation's capital hosted singer Bruce Springsteen, a fierce Trump opponent, who announced he would return to the Washington area on October 3 for the Power to the People Festival. □



Workers build a scaffolding around one of the two The Arts of Peace statues near Lincoln Memorial for a restoration project on May 29, 2026 in Washington, DC.

Polka-dots and hypnotic riffs fuel viral duo Angine de Poitrine

Brussels, Belgium

It's at the wacky end of the rock spectrum, but an unlikely recipe of polka-dot pyjamas, floppy-nosed masks and hypnotic guitar riffs has propelled Canadian duo Angine de Poitrine to viral stardom.

Clad head to toe in black-and-white robes their faces hidden by outsized masks the duo are known only by pseudonyms, as the "time-travelling explorers Klek and Khn".

On Thursday night the duo played the latest in a series of booked-out concerts across Europe, at the hip Botanique venue in Brussels, with a long list of US dates lined up through summer.

Pumping out an experimental mix of syncopated guitar, bass and drum loops somewhere between techno and acid rock their trademark sound is dissonant and "microtonal", which means they play the notes in between the notes. "They're such a party!" said Clara Moes, a 24-year-old fashion student who, like many, turned up in polka dots for the occasion. "It's like they came out of nowhere their characters are so mysterious."



Canada's experimental rock band "Angine de Poitrine" performs during a concert part of the Nuits Botanique music festival in Brussels on May 28, 2026.

The moment the tickets went up online, "sales went through the roof", said Olivier Vanhalst, the Botanique's programmer who says the band's unique appeal is still something of a mystery.

"People are drawn to the live experiences, a sound like none they've heard before, the mystery and the costumes," he said.

Formed in 2019 in Saguenay, in Canada's Quebec region, the band's name is French for angina

pectoris a kind of chest pain that can signal a heart attack in a nod to their art's absurdist bent.

They started out with help from the CEM experimental music centre in Saguenay, where a group of aficionados work to support niche musical forms.

The ride to fame started back in February when US radio station KEXP published a video of them recorded at a music festival in Rennes, in western France

that racked up 15 million views in three months.

"It's just wild," Jean-Louis Brossard, the Trans Musicales festival's artistic director, told AFP. "It really shows there is space for music that's different, that's not mainstream."

- Secretive mystique -

On stage, neither of them speak except for an occasional war cry as they perform fully-masked in the stifling heat of a Brussels spring heatwave.

Khn simultaneously plays guitar and bass thanks to a double-necked instrument with a looping system to layer riffs one on top of the other.

On the drums, Klek holds the heady rhythm as his giant protruding nose bounces to the beat.

Concert-goer Peter Somers, 59 and wearing a regulation polka-dot shirt, came across the band's "bizarre" music online.

"It's so refreshing this is not something you can create with an algorithm and AI," he said.

After a first album "Vol.1" in 2024, the duo just released a second six tracks spanning 36 minutes and a vibe ranging from the manic "Mata Zyklek" to the gypsy whirlwind of "Utzp".

After a handful of early interviews, the pair have stopped speaking to the press gunning instead for a secretive mystique, in the vein of legendary French duo Daft Punk.

But beyond the gimmicks, the music has drawn rave reviews from fellow musicians including Foo Fighters founder Dave Grohl, with critics seeing influences from jazz to the US counter-culture icon Frank Zappa. □

The Golden Trailer Awards: Hollywood's 'Oscars' for movie previews

Los Angeles, United States

When Monica Brady and Evelyn Watters were looking for a team to produce a trailer, they were shocked to find that creatives working in the field were practically anonymous.

The experience prompted the pair to create the Golden Trailer Awards, which kicked off in 1999 to recognize the people behind Hollywood's best-made movie previews.

"Trailer editors, the people creating some of the most memorable moments of the moviegoing experience, were completely unrecognized," Brady told AFP ahead of the gala's 26th edition on Thursday.

"They weren't credited on trailers, they weren't

credited in films, and there wasn't even a directory to find them."

The pair, who remain as executive producers on the award show, oversaw 19 prizes given out during the inaugural ceremony in New York.

This year's ceremony was held in Los Angeles on Thursday and recognized achievements in more than 100 categories.

The night's most coveted statuette for Best of Show went to the trailer for sci-fi movie "Project Hail Mary," starring Ryan Gosling, which was created by Wild Card Creative Group.

But what makes one movie trailer stand out from the rest?

"What makes a great trail-

er, first and foremost, is a great hook," Watters said.

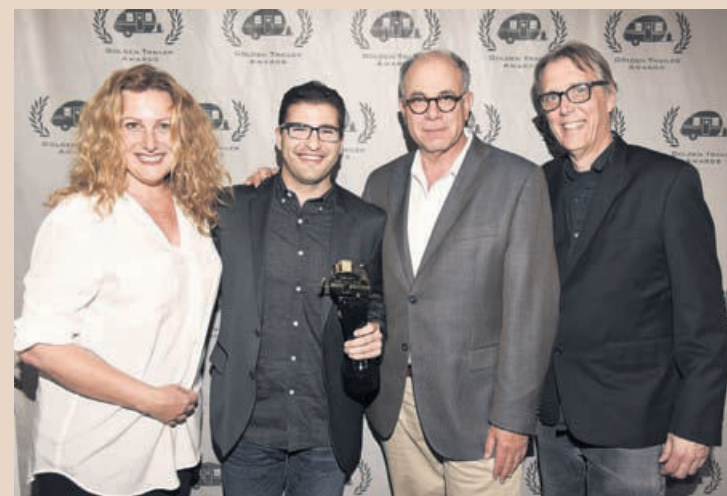
- 'A tempting appetizer' -

An honoree will likely have "a fresh storyline, compelling characters, an emotional moment, and something audiences haven't seen before," she explained ahead of the ceremony. "A winning trailer is a tempting appetizer, it is not the whole meal."

Taylor Engel, a creative director at Create Advertising Group -- which received 16 nominations this year for the company's work on trailers for "Sinners," "Tron: Ares" and "Only Murders in the Building" -- said editing a trailer is like putting together pieces of a puzzle.

"We get materials at the beginning of the project, and it could be anything. Sometimes you get the

movie, sometimes you get just dailies, you know, just the scenes that they shot," Engel said. □



Winners of Best Animation/Family Trailer creative director Destiny Esposito, editor Matt Fierstein, executive vice president of marketing at Walt Disney Studios David Sameth and producer Steve Hull attend the 16th Annual Golden Trailer Awards at Saban Theatre on May 6, 2015 in Beverly Hills, California.

U.N. says protecting children online an 'urgent priority'

Geneva, Switzerland

Making the digital world safe for children is an urgent priority, the United Nations said Friday, adding that those responsible for online harm must be held to account.

UN rights chief Volker Turk said states had to force tech giants to embed child safety into their platforms, and said child harm was the direct result of business practices and design choices.

"The digital world that connects children to learning, community, and creativity also exposes them to real risks to their safety, privacy and well-being," Turk said in a statement.

Online harms in those fields "are not innate or inevitable; they result from design choices and business practices that undermine safety, including addictive design features, such as infinite scroll, autoplay, and persistent notifications from apps", he said.

"Enhancing protection of children online is an urgent priority that we need to make sure not only gets done but that it gets done right."

In December, Australia became the first country to require TikTok, YouTube, Snapchat and other top sites to remove accounts



France's junior Minister in charge of artificial intelligence Anne Le Henanff speaks during a session of questions to the government at the National Assembly, French Parliament's lower house, in Paris on May 5, 2026.

held by under-16s, or face heavy fines.

Indonesia has imposed a similar ban, while several European countries are looking at following suit. In a submission to Britain's consultation on the issue which ended this week, the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges said doctors were seeing a "wave of radicalised children" from exposure to "hateful, addictive and grossly distressing content".

"Blanket social media bans are not a one-off panacea," said Turk.

"Simply limiting access to platforms that remain unsafe cannot stand as the endpoint in effectively protecting children."

- 'Micro-targeting' of kids -

The U.N. high commissioner for human rights called for tougher measures by governments and tech firms to make online platforms safe places for children, through

better design, data protection, regulation, oversight and accountability.

He called for action to ensure that "those responsible for harm can be held to account".

Turk said simply focusing on age restrictions would leave unaltered the designs and algorithms that made the platforms unsafe in the first place.

The U.N. rights chief also said experience so far showed that bans could be easily

circumvented and voiced concern that such bans could even end up pushing children to riskier, even less monitored platforms.

The U.N. rights office produced a set of 10 guidelines entitled "Getting Children's Safety Online Right". These included ensuring the maximum protection of children's data as a default setting, while the "micro-targeting" of children for commercial purposes, based on a digital record, "should not be permitted". They said emerging concerns such as restrictions on artificial intelligence chatbot use or addictive design features may warrant age restrictions.

Measures should be subject to independent oversight, with legal consequences that serve as deterrents, the guidelines said.

There should also be access to remedy for children whose rights are violated.

- No 'quick fix' -

The U.N. rights office issued the guidelines as multiple countries are considering social media bans for children, while children and social media may feature on the G7 summit agenda next month.

"For too long, social platforms and apps have not met this responsibility by

fully understanding the risks that platforms pose, and taking the steps to address those harms," said Peggy Hicks, the UN human rights office's thematic and special procedures director, "Often they've prioritised their user-based expansion or engagement rather than the well-being of kids," she told a press conference in Geneva.

Hicks said there was no "quick fix" to the problem, but the guidelines should help ensure future measures are grounded in human rights, and children's rights.

She said children themselves must be involved in the process, since they will often recognise the online threats and problems they face before adults do. □



This picture taken in Moscow on March 19, 2022 shows logos of Youtube social media on a smartphone screen.

Paris, France

Youtube will in future automatically detect AI-generated content and flag the information to viewers on its platform, the Google-owned company said Wednesday.

The move reverses a previous policy of relying on vid-

eo creators to self-report if they had used generative AI tools.

"If a creator doesn't specify whether or not they used AI, but our systems detect significant photorealistic AI use, we will now automatically apply a label," YouTube said in a blog post.

Youtube says will flag AI-generated content

The video platform's last steps on generative AI date back to 2024, when it requested that creators flag content where they had used the technology. Since then there have been major strides in producing photorealistic images and video, with widely available AI models including Google's Veo 3.1 and Seedance from Tiktok's parent company Bytedance.

Creators will be able to challenge the new flags if they think their content has been unfairly labelled

as AI, Youtube said.

The platform added that the flags would have no impact on its algorithm for recommending videos to users.

Other platforms and social networks to introduce automatic flagging of AI content recently include music streamer Spotify.

Many online spaces are flooded with AI-generated images, video or audio, which is growing increasingly difficult to tell apart from human creations as the tools become more capable. □

Legacy of Himalaya's 'Sherlock Holmes' lives on in digital

Kathmandu, Nepal

In a crowded Kathmandu restaurant far from Nepal's famed icy peaks, Billi Bierling questions climbers about their ascents, preserving each triumph in the Himalayan Database, mountaineering's revered 60-year-old register of success.

German climber Bierling, 58, inherited the stewardship of the archive from her mentor, the late Elizabeth Hawley, an American journalist who began the post-expedition interviews in Nepal while covering an American Everest expedition in 1963.

"It was her fascination," Bierling told AFP, after interviewing a Russian and a Ukrainian climber about their ascent of Manaslu, the world's eighth-highest mountain.

"She never climbed," Bierling said. "She never even went to a base camp -- but the people interested her." Hawley's 50 years of chronicling climbs in the Himalayas earned her the moniker "the Sherlock Holmes of the mountaineering world" from Edmund Hillary, who with Tenzing Norgay made the first summit of Everest. By the time she passed away in 2018, she had built a reputation as one of the most authoritative voices on Himalayan mountaineering.



This photograph taken on May 4, 2026 shows German climber, journalist and Himalayan Database managing director Billi Bierling (C) interviewing mountaineers Ukraine's Alexandr Moroz (R) and Russia's Mark Ablovacky after their ascent of the world's eighth-highest mountain Manaslu in Kathmandu.

The database she began had become the definitive record of Himalayan expeditions used by climbers, historians and researchers alike.

"She was very, very keen on her data, on her information," said Bierling, who first met Hawley in 2001 when she was in Nepal to climb the 7,129-metre (23,390-foot) Baruntse and began assisting her in 2004.

She described how Hawley would give the same grilling to all -- whether a climbing legend or an unknown.

"It didn't matter whether you were Reinhold Messner or you were Ueli Steck," she said, referring to the Italian great who made the first solo ascent of Everest, as well as the late Swiss speed climber.

"Or if you were Billi Bierling, a nobody," she said with a smile.

Bierling is now part of the team that continues her work, updating the vast database year after year.

At a time when each year more climbers are attempting the world's highest peaks than ever before,

the task of recording the ascents is even more important.

- '40 drawers of reports' -

But times have changed.

In the 1970s, Hawley would drive to Kathmandu's airport in her blue Volkswagen Beetle, spotting those carrying the tell-tale heavy mountaineering boots as they walked off the two or three international flights a week.

Soon, it was the mountaineers who would seek her out.

In 1991, American climber

Richard Salisbury, recognising the archive's historical importance and fragility, proposed digitising it.

It took nearly 11 years, Salisbury told AFP, a painstaking effort to convert "nearly 40 full file drawers" of meticulous handwritten expedition reports into a searchable digital resource.

"It was very important for a mountaineer to have their summit recorded in the Himalayan Database," said Garrett Madison, who has organised expeditions in Nepal since the 2000s, speaking to AFP from Everest base camp.

"If it wasn't recorded, it didn't happen."

Japanese climber Tatsuro Sugimoto, in Kathmandu after completing the first ascent of the 6,473-metre (21,237-foot) Jarkya, said the database was key for mountaineers seeking new records and routes.

"It is useful; we can check which mountains are unclimbed," he said.

- 'Need an army' -

Its scale, like climbing, has expanded exponentially. Commercial expeditions now send hundreds of climbers each season, some summiting more than one peak.

"At one point I thought, 'this is no longer possible'," Bierling said. "I would be only running around. □"

'Robots need clothes': humanoids hit catwalk in Seoul

Seoul, South Korea

There were no naked robots in sight at a fashion show held in Seoul with a high-tech twist, where pairs of people and humanoids hit the catwalk in matching outfits.

A tasselled blue Texan-style ensemble complete with a cowboy hat for the robot and a retro silver puffer jacket were among the looks showcased at the event on Thursday.

Each human model and their shorter android companion took turns to strut their stuff in unison on stage.

The designs, including silky dresses and billowing

space-age black trousers like those worn by rock star David Bowie in the 1970s, were carefully fitted to the robots' skeletal frames.

Galaxy Corporation, the entertainment company behind the display, said it was meant to ask: "How can humans and robots coexist?"

"We realised that robots, too, need to wear clothes," CEO Choi Yong-ho said.

"Just as every human being is unique, we believe that every single robot should also be distinct."

The clothes were designed by the company, whose

spokesperson said it hopes to launch them under the brand name "MACH 33" at the end of the year.

The robot models at the Seoul fashion show appeared to be a humanoid made by Chinese startup Unitree, which are popular due to their relatively low cost.

Increasingly dexterous robots have proven themselves capable of performing choreographed dances, participating in races, and even able to land backflips.

Financial services firm Morgan Stanley predicts the world could have more



A humanoid robot and a model present creations at Galaxy Corporation's "Mach33: Physical AI Fashion Show" in Seoul on May 28, 2026.

than a billion humanoids by 2050.

But fully automated robots using emerging physical AI

technology are still rare, with most impressive displays remotely operated or pre-programmed. □

Low cost glasses help India's poor see a better future

Bhubaneswar, India

As soon as he put on his glasses, Indian vegetable seller Tofan Jena knew daily life would never be the same.

For the first time, the 49-year-old could see the world around him in sharp detail.

"I can make out all the letters of the alphabet, even the smallest ones," he marvelled, pointing to his phone screen.

Jena is among one billion people recorded by the World Health Organization who suffer from vision problems but lack the means to correct them.

The International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness estimates that \$30 billion is lost in productivity from preventable or curable eye diseases in India alone.

Just an hour earlier, Jena who is a resident of Bhubaneswar, capital of the eastern state of Odisha, had his eyes examined for the first time in his life by GoodVision, whose mission is to bring eye care to underprivileged communities. The charity hopes to close the gap in eyecare and works in 12 countries, including India, where around 550 million need



This photograph taken on May 4, 2026 shows vegetable seller Tofan Jena undergoing a free eye test at GoodVision India – Care Netram charity's screening camp in the Salia Sahi slum area of Bhubaneswar.

glasses, and an estimated 250 million people lack access to them.

For less than two dollars, Jena left with a pair of corrective glasses -- and a clear vision of his future.

"I can read, I can write, and I can see very well at a distance," he repeats, as if trying to convince himself. "I'll be able to do everything with these glasses."

- Access to care -

The small miracle was repeated for dozens of residents in the poor district of Salia Sahi.

Technicians from the charity set up a mobile camp under a tarpaulin, offering shade from the blazing sun, while providing eye examinations, vision tests, and the selection and fitting of glasses.

At the end, a line of people stood blinking at the world, amazed at the clarity and

detail many had forgotten or, for some, had never known.

With glasses perched on his nose, 43-year-old shopkeeper Minati Rout completes his journey by passing a final test: separating small pebbles from grains of rice.

"I was not able to read small letters, I was not able to thread in a needle... now I can, to do all those things," she said.

"I will tell my neighbours to get their eyes checked here too."

Piush Khetan, the charity's India director, said they offer basic services which include a free eye screening and glasses for people in need as well as performing cataract surgery.

The lenses for the glasses come from China, while the frames are made in India from metal wire and assembled in about 10 minutes.

In the small town of Maniabandha, a two-hour drive from Bhubaneswar, patients wait on plastic chairs. "These community camps are extremely important for villagers, because they have no access to eye care," said optometrist Gopinath Das.

"Sometimes they don't have money, sometimes they don't even know they have eye problems."

More than 400 underprivileged neighbourhoods and villages are visited each month, sites often overlooked by public health services.

"We are able to provide help to people, and we feel good about it," said technician Debasmitha Behera, 23. □

British naked chalk giant gets spruced up

Dorchester, United Kingdom

Getting hot and sweaty in a British heatwave, volunteers from home and abroad have been hard at work all week to restore a historic naked chalk giant dubbed "Rude Man" on a hillside in southwest

England.

The 180-foot (55-metre) Cerne Abbas Giant, carved into the side of a chalk hill in Dorset, is restored around every decade to prevent it from fading into the grassy landscape.



An aerial photograph shows the Cerne Abbas Giant, in Dorchester, southern England on May 29, 2026.

"Typically, we carry out this work every 10 years, but we noticed it was starting to look a bit dull and needed some attention," Liz Flight from the National Trust heritage conservation charity, adding that it was last given a makeover in 2019.

Flight noted that heavier winter rains were washing away the chalk and increasingly frequent heatwaves had hastened the growth of algae and weeds, blurring the giant's obscene outline.

The giant is formed of a series of trenches carved about 30 centimeters deep into the underlying chalk hill, complete with a 10-metre-long erect penis. Its origins remain shadowy, with National Trust research in 2021 revealing

that it was likely carved during the late Anglo-Saxon period, between 700 and 1100 AD.

Volunteers from far and wide were hard at work on Friday.

"Some come from the nearby village, others from London, and even from as far away as Australia," said Flight, adding some 300 people had been gathered for the two- to three-week-long project.

This year, the makeover coincided with a heatwave which broke UK temperature records for May, disrupting the schedule. Rainfall expected this weekend could also slow down progress on the site. Before applying new chalk, the old layer is removed and placed in

plastic bags. Volunteers then walk down the hill, bags of chalk slung over their shoulders.

Some, wearing shorts and caps to protect from the sun, weeded a section of the trench. Flight, for her part, spent part of her morning working on one of the giant's legs.

This year, the cleanup has a special significance: a fundraising campaign raised £330,000 pounds (\$444,500) to purchase over 130 hectares (320 acres) of land surrounding the giant.

The purchased site which has "high archaeological value" will allow the National Trust to explore the surroundings and help trace the history of the Cerne Abbas. □

It's going to be a great weekend!

(Oranjestad)—Here's why: Aruba Today collected some things to do BEYOND the beach. Yes, we know. Aruba, located 15 miles north of Venezuela in the warm waters of the southern Caribbean, is home to beautiful white-sand beaches, 82-degree days, and thus ideal for the perfect beach day. But we are also blessed with some of the warmest people in the world and our island is 19.6 miles long and 6 miles across, with a total area of 70 square miles. Bit more to discover than the white stretch on the coastline we say. Let's mention some of these hidden gems.

Nature Calls



The Arikok National park is worth the ride. We love the hikes that are guided by the park's rangers whose job is to maintain trails and protect natural resources. The flora and fauna are beautiful and the historical sites tell you about the island's indigenous roots. The guided tours are even free of charge. If you are not up to walking, you can drive through the park, one way or another this park is a great place to spend an entire day. Cruising through the landscape you end up at some of the most stunning beaches like Dos Playa or Daimara Beach. In Total the park consists of 7907 acres protected nature with a richness of animals living in it. The Aruban whiptail lizard (cododo), Aruban cat eye snake (santanero) and endangered rattle snake (cascabel) are just some of them, you can also admire these close in the park's Visitors' Center.



For more information, visit the website www.acf.aw

The Lighthouse

No, you would not think of this as a hidden gem. The California Lighthouse is actually one of the most known highlights in Aruba and many repeated guests most probably took the ride uphill already. But, there is a significant change to this tower. Since September 2016 you can climb the top. In 2015 Stichting Monumentenfonds started the restoration of the California Lighthouse. The project finished in September 2016 and the Lighthouse is now open for visitors to enjoy the beautiful view from the top. The construction of the California Lighthouse started in 1915. The name 'California' came from a vessel of the West India Company and Pacific Steamship Co. called 'California' that shipwrecked in the area in 1891. Therefore they came up with the idea of building a lighthouse that could indicate the island's eastern tip to ships with its light.

Kayak in the Mangroves

Mangel Halto at Savaneta is definitely a place not to miss out on. The beautiful beach with the natural mangroves is simply a beauty, but if you are into a more active way to enjoy the nature: take a kayak. While you are doing some workout—as it might get a little windy and rough—you will see the island from a different perspective. You can even make a stop to do some snorkeling at the reef. It's fun, it's healthy and for sure something else. □

Beaches for the whole family to enjoy!

(Oranjestad)—One of the biggest concerns that parents have when traveling with their children is a guarantee of their safety and healthy enjoyment. Therefore, we thought it would be a great help to traveling parents to list off some the most family-friendly beaches around the island.

Baby Beach in San Nicolas

Baby Beach is one Aruba's most popular and visited beaches, and for good reason: This sandy and quiet lagoon is a great place for parents to sit back and relax while their children play in the shallow shores of the beach. Beside the relaxing atmosphere, there are also several services that may accommodate your stay, like a parking lot, sun tent rentals, chairs, bathrooms and a snack bar right at the far left of the beach.

Mangel Halto in Pos Chiquito

Mangel Halto is situated in the

back streets of Pos Chiquito. Though there are several stairs on the sides of the beach cliff leading you down, the best spot for families to hang out is across the bridge, passed the mangrove trees near the entrance sign. Here, there are small and big palapas, perfect for big and small families to set up their belongings. In this area, the shore is also shallow, falling right around your knee before slowly getting deeper: perfect for kids to safely play.

Eagle Beach/Palm Beach

Yet another highly popular beach sites, Eagle Beach and Palm Beach is where most of our visitors go to tan, swim or play in the white sand. Because they are near the low-rise and high-rise hotel areas, these beaches are the most accessible for visitors on foot. These beaches also offer many palapas free to use, but you can also rent chairs and tents. Much like Baby Beach,

these sites are one of the best beaches for your children to play and build sand castles.

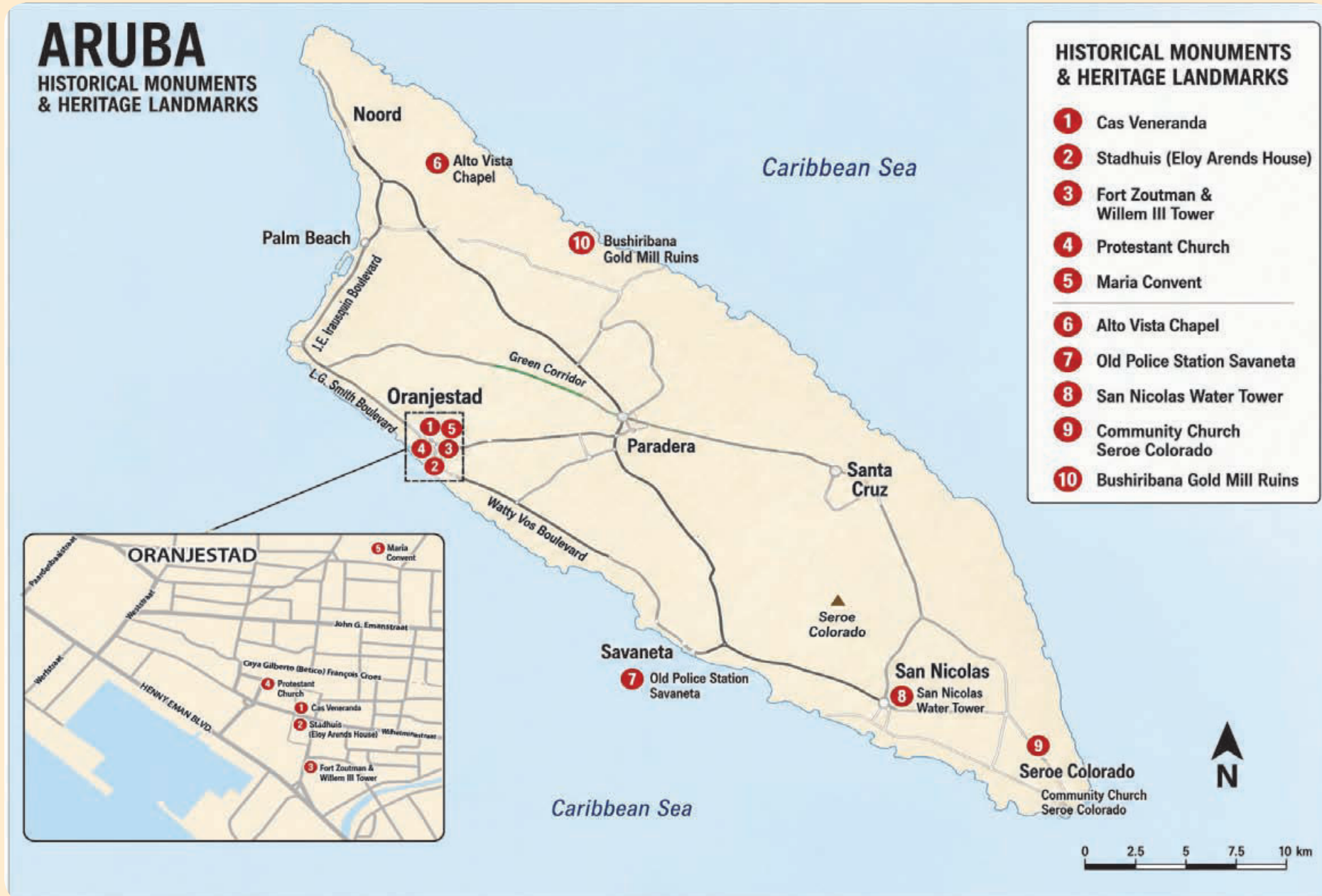
Boca Catalina in Malmok

Boca Catalina is a small bay beach near the Malmok beach area further down the hotel areas. Though

it may not be a very sandy beach, it is relatively quiet and tranquil. This is a great place for family to lay down a big blanket and have a little picnic. This is also one of the best places to snorkel, as this area is filled with little fish and corals, even close to the shore. □

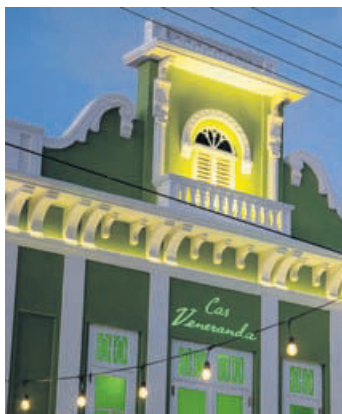


A day in Aruba Today we are visiting Monuments!



1. Cas Veneranda Willemstraat 7, Oranjestad, Aruba

Built in 1936 for Spanish consul Machi Arends, the house was inspired by a neo-baroque home in Colombia, and created by architect Dada Picus. Recently renovated, Cas Veneranda now houses the The Aruba Department of Economic Affairs, Commerce, & Industry (DEACI).



3. Fort Zoutman & Willem III Tower Zoutmanstraat, Oranjestad, Aruba

Fort Zoutman and the Willem III Tower are among Aruba's most important historical landmarks and today house the island's Historical Museum. The complex, restored between 1974 and 1980, reflects centuries of Aruban history, from the colonial era to the modern period.



2. Stadhuis (Eloy Arends House) Wilhelminastraat 8, Oranjestad, Aruba

The Doctor Eloy Arends Building was once the home of the Arends family and is considered one of Aruba's most beautiful historic mansions. Designed by architect Medardo "Dada" Picus, the Aruban-Caribbean style building was constructed between 1922 and 1925.

Today, the adjacent building houses the Office of the Civil Registry, while the mansion itself is used for civil wedding ceremonies.



4. Protestant Church Whilhelimastraat 1, Oranjestad

The Old Protestant Church in Oranjestad, built in 1846, is the oldest church building in Aruba and one of the island's most important historical landmarks. Today, the church remains an active cultural and religious site used for concerts, exhibitions, English-language Sunday services, and guided city tours. It also houses the A. van den Doel Bible Museum.



5. Maria Convent J.E. Irausquinplein 2a/ Dominicanessenstraat 2, Oranjestad, Aruba

The Maria Convent, which was no longer used as such due to the departure of the sisters and became vacant, housed the Instituto di Cultura after renovation. The convent stood vacant for more than 10 years and was renovated again, with the help of funds from the United Nations Development Program, to provide housing for the new technical faculty (SISTEM) of the adjacent University of Aruba.



7. Old Police Station Savaneta Savaneta 110, Aruba

Restored in 2024, the Savaneta Police Post is an example of the practical government architecture developed in Aruba after World War II. During that period, the Curaçao Public Works Department designed police stations and housing for police personnel using simple, cost-effective layouts that could be constructed quickly. Similar



L-shaped and T-shaped government buildings appeared across Aruba, including in Oranjestad, San Nicolas, Noord, and Savaneta.

8. San Nicolas Water Tower Corner Bernhardstraat/Caya Dick Cooper

The San Nicolas Water Tower is closely connected to the development of Aruba's modern water supply system. To solve problems with low water pressure during peak usage hours, two water towers were later built on the island. The San Nicolas Water Tower officially opened on August 14, 1939, followed later that year by the Oranjestad Water Tower.

Over time, the San Nicolas Water Tower became one of Aruba's most recognizable industrial landmarks.



6. Alto Vista Chapel HXGQ+9JC, Noord, Aruba



Alto Vista Chapel is one of Aruba's most important spiritual and historical landmarks and is recognized as the island's first Catholic church. The original chapel was established in 1750 in the Alto Vista area, where many indigenous Arubans lived at the time. Today, Alto Vista Chapel continues to attract both worshippers and visitors seeking peace, reflection, and a connection to Aruba's history.

9. Community Church Seroe Colorado Seroe Colorado (Former Lago Colony)

The Seroe Colorado Community Church was established during the early years of the Lago Refinery in San Nicolas. Religious gatherings for refinery workers first began in the late 1920s, and in 1939 a dedicated church building was constructed in an Anglo-American architectural style designed by Norman Shirley.

Following the closure of the refinery in 1985, the church became part of Aruba's Protestant Community.



10. Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins H23F+C9F, Noord, Aruba

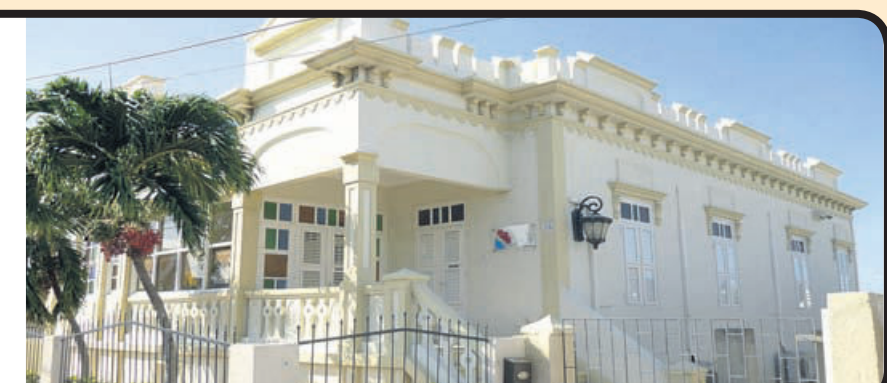


Built in 1872 by the Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd., the mill was located along Aruba's northern coast near areas where gold had been discovered. Although the gold mill operated for only about ten years, the ruins remain standing today as one of the most recognizable reminders of Aruba's gold mining era and continue to attract visitors from around the world.

Love monuments?

Visit <https://monumentenfondsaruba.org/>

for more monuments and all the information you need to visit them!



Up for a snorkeling adventure in Aruba? Top 3 shipwrecks to explore

(ORANJESTAD) – Aruba is not only the perfect vacation destination to sit back and relax on the sandy beaches but also has great snorkeling spots for passionate adventurers to explore. On the coast of the island, there are various shipwrecks that have become fan-favorites over the years. Here are the top 3 shipwrecks you should explore.

SS Antilla

Dubbed "The Ghost Ship", SS Antilla is the biggest and most visited shipwreck site off the coast of the island. Located in Malmok, this 400-foot ship's story is one of capture and sabotage during WWII.

After Germany invaded The Netherlands, Dutch authorities ordered the confinement of the ship's German crew, who were ported in Aruba because it needed to find a neutral port. The Dutch ordered the ship to be confiscated, but the German crew had other plans. Taking advantage of a delay caused by an anticipated armed resistance, the Germans started scuttling the ship, opening her seacock and setting her ablaze.

Eventually, the crew was arrested, but SS Antilla could



not be saved by the Dutch forces. The Dutch fired two rounds of their 35mm gun aboard the 'Aruba' at SS Antilla and left her to sink.

The shipwreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you'll be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the shipwreck alone is already impressive enough.

SS Pedernales

Like the Antilla, the story of SS Pedernales dates to WWII. Pedernales was used as a lake tanker between Venezuela and Aruba, and sailed under British Flag. At

this time, The US and Britain were using Aruba and Curacao as fuel stations for the war ships.

Under operation Neuland (disruption of British and American oil sources), Germany fleets bombed Pedernales. The ship was later cut into three sections, two of which were taken to the US for reconstruction. The remaining part stayed in Aruba and was used as target practice. Eventually, the ship became a snorkeling site that has attracted many visitors throughout the years.

Pedernales lies on the

north-west coast of Aruba, and is no more than 10 feet under water, making it an ideal site for snorkelers and divers of all levels.

Jane Sea Wreck

The Jane Sea Wreck lies near Palm Island at 100 feet underwater. Jane's story is heavily speculated, making her origin a tale of legends.

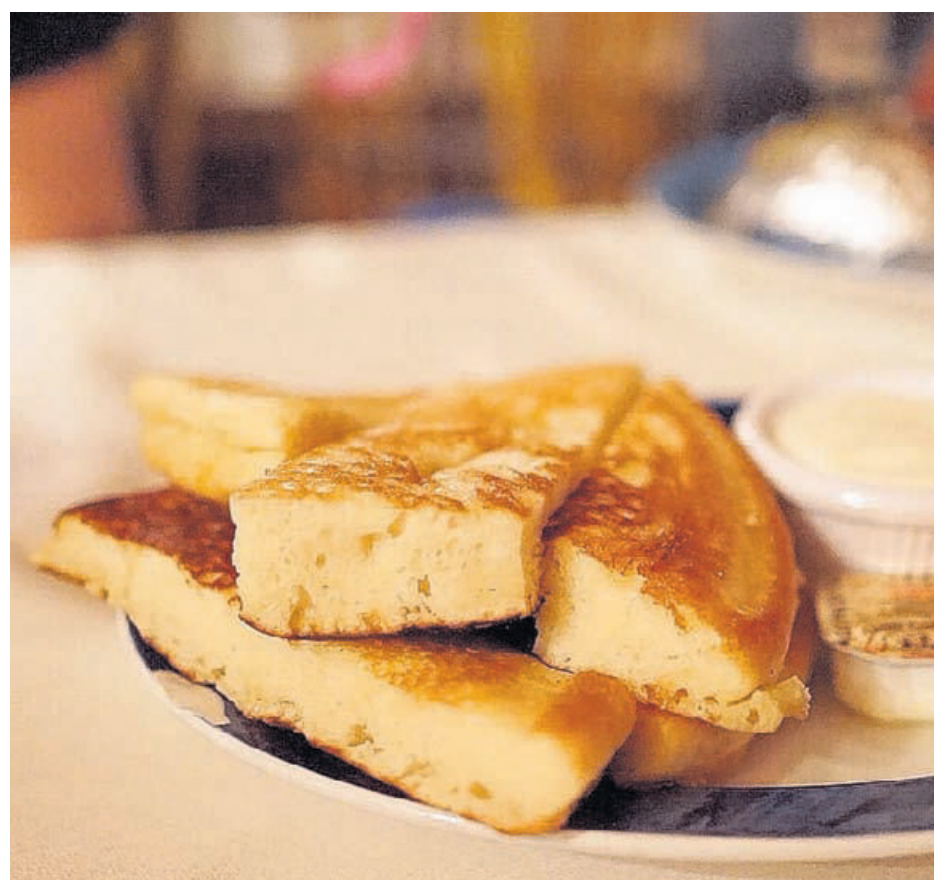
Launched in 1959, the 190-foot ship was initially called "Blackthorn". Her last owner, S&D Shipping Ltd. named her Jane Sea. Jane was a cement freighter between Venezuela and Aruba.

The story goes that the Jane Sea arrived one day at the Barcadera Harbor, where Aruban customs discovered several tons of cocaine. The ship was confiscated and petitioned went out for her owner to claim her. However, several years went by and no one came forward to claim the ship, so dive operators decided to sink her as an artificial reef. This happened in 1988. Jane Sea earned the nickname Jane C, because of the illicit white powder discovered on board.

Jane is now beautifully overgrown with coral and is home to a diverse set of marine life, like turtles, octopus, crabs and sometimes even nurse sharks.

The stories behind these shipwrecks enriches their exploration and offers snorkelers and divers a glance into the past, as well as the beautiful marine life that have molded these wrecks into their home. So, grab your equipment and discover another side of what Aruba has to offer!

We highly recommend you embark on your adventure with the guide of a professional and be sure to take of yourself and Aruba's precious nature. □



Dining in? Try making some local favorites! How to make "pan bati"

(Oranjestad)—If you're ever up for an Aruban snack, try making another Aruban classic appetizer called Pan Bati. Similar to a pancake both in appearance and cooking, this is a super easy meal that adults and children will both enjoy. Here's how to make it!

Ingredients:

2 cups of all purpose flour
1 cup grams of fine cornmeal
2 tbsp baking powder
1 1/3 cup of milk
1 pinch of salt
2 tbsp of granulated sugar
Oil for cooking

Instructions:

Add all the dry ingredients in a bowl first, and stir until well mixed. Then add the milk and beat until

reached a pancake-like consistency. If more moisture is needed, add some water until reached desired consistency.

In a hot pan with oil, pour in enough batter to cover the bottom of the pan. Just like pancakes, flip the pan bati when one side turns golden brown. When your pan bati is ready, place on a plate and cover with a clean kitchen towel.

Traditionally, pan bati is cut in triangle pieces, and is often eaten as a side dish with soup, fried fish or stews. However, it is also casually enjoyed with some butter and cheese on top!

Aruba: the legend behind its name

(Oranjestad)—Most folkloric tales and legends in Aruba revolve around our indigenous ancestors, who came from mainland Venezuela, and discovered the island and made it into their new home. This particular legend tells the story of the birth of the Aruba name.

The legend follows the life of Arua, an indigenous Cacique originally from Aroa in the Falcon state in Venezuela in the year 50 AD. Arua had a son around the year 70 AD with his wife Shira, who they named Corobori. When Corobori was old enough, he joined his father on the usual boat trip to the islands of Curaçao and Bonaire to gather salt.

On their way back to Mainland Venezuela, they were caught up in a heavy rain storm—a side effect from a passing, but far away, hurricane. Of course, because of the lack of motors and sail, their boat was left in the mercy of the heavy winds. After a while, the storm started to pass, and the clouds began to clear up. Finally able to see around them, the Cacique spotted land approximately an hour away. So, they started to row in that direction until they reached the coast.

Once they arrived on what they thought was Venezue-

la, they decided to stay the night and fix their kayak. The next morning, the Cacique ordered his son and a few warriors to go find any sign of population in the area: "Corobori," Arua said. "Don't come back without news. It's in your hands how long we stay here till we find our family. So, if you need to take a week to gather information, we will wait for you."

"Don't worry," Corobori replied. "As soon as we have any information, we will let you know." Armed with arrows and spears, backpacks filled with food and water containers, they set off. They climbed several small hills, but no sign of a village. They crossed different dry riverbeds, but no sign of anything. When the sun finally descended, they found themselves near a fairly tall hill and decided to climb it for a better view of a village. This hill was called Pan Dushi or Orcuyo, which today we call Hooiberg.

The next morning, they could clearly see that they have landed on an island, but an unfamiliar one at that. When Corobori went back to where his father was waiting, he told him the news: "Father Arua, you have just discovered an island, but it is not Curaçao or Bonaire. Far in the south, we saw the big

mountains of our homeland Venezuela, which we could have never seen on the other island. This leads us to believe we are on a new island. But that's not all. When the sun came up, we saw in the distance a glowing plain, which we think may be salt."

The Cacique was pleased to hear of his son's findings. He decided to stay a couple days on the newly-discovered island in search for salt. The next morning they ascended Hooiberg again and stayed to see if they could find nearby smoke, indicating an inhabitant village. But they found nothing. So they went back to their initial arrival settlement, now known as Santo Largo in Savaneta. The next morning they hiked along the Spaans Lagoen near the Mangel Halto Beach and reached the area of Bushiri. There, they boarded their kayaks and heading to what we know now as Malmok, where they found rocks of salt. After a couple days of exploring the island and gathering some salt rocks, they left for Venezuela, where they were reunited with their families.

Throughout the year, they travelled back and forth to Aruba, collecting salt. After a while they settled on the island, generations of families living along the coast.



Corobori was the first indigenous inhabitant in our history to explore the entirety of the island.

Arua, after decades as the leader of his tribe, spent his last days on the island. Having reached 80 years old, he called for his family on his death bed. In his hammock, he said: "My children, many years have passed, and I've asked my warrior to bring me back to the island so I can laid to rest. The God of living has given me the gift of life to see my son, grandchildren and great grandchildren. But now he is calling me home. Corobori, my torch is now passed to you. Guide our people, and be the leader you were always meant to become. If one day you leave my island, do not forget that it is also yours. This is my last wish: When I die, bury me in our maize plantation."

And so when the Cacique passed away, his wishes

were granted and he was laid to rest in the area we now know as the Paradera Cemetery. Where he used to live, they built the Paradera Church.

And that is the tale of what inspired the Aruba name. In the generations that lived or travelled back and forth to the island, there were many familiar names*, like Guadiriki, a warrior who was there when the island got discovered and his son, whom he called Huliba; Corobori and his children, Corodori, Camacuri and Turibana, Masiduri; and Malmok, the 13-year-old boy who alerted the Cacique when the Caribes attacked.

Familiar names: all these names are familiar to Arubans, as these are the names of places and plants on the island. □

Source: Un storia di e Indjan Arua (A story of the Indian Arua) by Adolf (Dufi) Kock.

Fun facts about cacti hedges "Trankera"



(Oranjestad) – When off-roading in inland Aruba, you may notice some cacti hedges around various properties or lined up by certain pathways. These man-made hedges are called "trankera" and play an important role in maintaining our flora and fauna.

The trankera dates to colonialism, where settlers established several 'cunucu' (farm) on the island. People either used stone walls or trankera as a fence to ward off strangers and wild animals that can feed on the cunucu vegetation or cattle.

Nowadays, trankeras are less

common, and those that still stand are often not maintained. On the surface this seems like a bad development, however this proved to be beneficial for our flora and fauna. Naturally developed flora around the hedges offers more shelter for fauna. Another aspect is the propagation process. When pruning hedges, flowers and seeds were removed, which limits propagation to a minimum.

So, though trankeras don't play that big of a role in Aruba's agriculture anymore, our environment still reaps the benefits of these long-standing natural structures. □

CROSSWORD

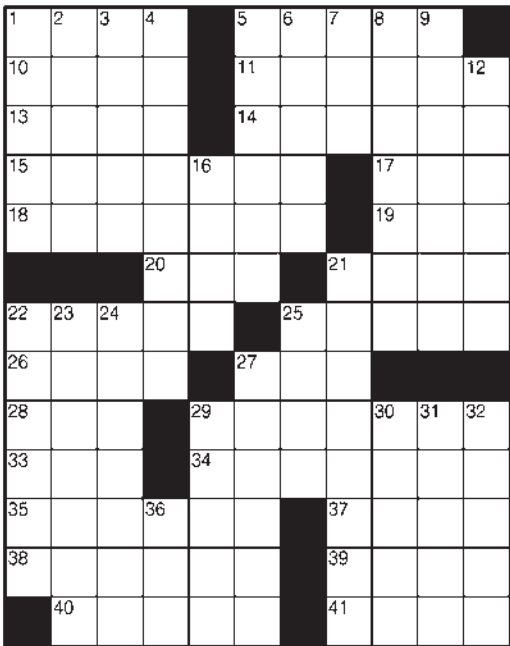
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 38 Shirt part
1 Drove too fast
5 Party givers
10 Make roads
11 Fly high
13 Falco of TV
14 Remote, informally
15 Candy bar cover
17 Memo-
rable time
18 Kind of
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19 Treat
rudely,
in slang
20 Print
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21 Portion
(out)
22 Satchel
part
25 Printer
need
26 Metal
sources
27 Cut,
as hay
28 Buddy
29 Broadcast
ender
33 Yale
rooter
34 Kit
Carson,
for one
35 Drake or
Dre
37 Mother
of Castor
and Pollux

DOWN

- 1 Gushes
forth
2 San Diego
player
3 French
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4 Homes for
biolumi-
nescent
fish
5 Tormen-
tors of
new
recruits
6 Pistil
part
7 Small
drink
8 Attached,
in a way
9 Like
surgical
tools
12 Pencil part
16 Pageantry
21 De-
empha-
size
22 Suzanne
of "Three's
Company"
23 Refrain bit
24 Chef's
secrets
25 Forum
attire
27 Helen
of "The
Queen"
29 Carell of
movies
30 Met music
31 Disgusted
32 College
houses
36 Vitality



1-30

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-30 CRYPTOQUOTE

Q E G ' T D K C M A D F , Q E G L

W M R W J D N N . M C H C U D F M ,

A M S D H Q K C X W D L P D K E L D H D .

— "L D X G L J E K X W D U D F M"

Cryptoquote: IT'S BETTER TO SEE
SOMETHING ONCE THAN TO HEAR ABOUT IT A
THOUSAND TIMES. — ASIAN PROVERB



Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the

store.

Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as

the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



JUNE CRUISE SHIP SCHEDULE	
02 TUE	GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: B CARNIVAL MAGIC Arrival: 9:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: C
09 TUE	CARNIVAL HORIZON Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: B GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C CARNIVAL MARDI GRAS Arrival: 13:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: I
16 TUE	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: B GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C SEVEN SEAS MARINER Arrival: 10:00 Departure: 21:00 Berth: I
17 WED	CARNIVAL VISTA Arrival: 7:00 Departure: 16:00 Berth: C ALLURE OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: I
23 THU	CARNIVAL HORIZON Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: B GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C
30 TUE	GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: B CARNIVAL MAGIC Arrival: 9:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: C

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

	9			5	1			
	3	2		6	9	1	8	7
4				2	8			
				4		5		
	6				3		9	
9	5	7	2	1	6	3		8
	4		8				7	1
7			6				3	
3	2						6	4

Difficulty: ★

6/1

Answer to previous puzzle

5	9	8	7	4	3	1	6	2
1	7	3	8	6	2	5	4	9
6	2	4	1	9	5	7	3	8
7	8	6	3	1	4	9	2	5
3	5	1	9	2	7	6	8	4
2	4	9	5	8	6	3	1	7
9	6	7	4	3	8	2	5	1
4	3	5	2	7	1	8	9	6
8	1	2	6	5	9	4	7	3

Difficulty: ★★★★★

5/31

Temperatures likely to remain at record levels in 2026-2030: U.N.

Geneva, Switzerland

Global average temperatures are likely to continue at or near record levels this year and for the next four years afterwards, the United Nations warned Thursday.

The 11 hottest individual years ever recorded all happened from 2015 onwards and the UN's weather and climate agency said the trend was set to continue, with a new hottest-ever year "likely" before 2031.

There is a 75 percent chance that the 2026-2030 five-year mean temperature will surpass the key threshold of 1.5C above the 1850-1900 pre-industrial average, the World Meteorological Organization said.

The WMO outlook comes as western Europe swelters under a "heat dome" of warm air, breaking temperature records for May in Britain and France, with Italy issuing heatwave alerts in major cities.

"Global average temperatures are likely to continue at or near record levels in the next five years," the agency said.

"It is likely (86 percent chance) that one year between 2026 and 2030 will surpass 2024 as the warmest year on record."

- El Nino effect on 2027 -

"There is an El Nino predicted for the end of 2026, which increases the chances of the following year, 2027, being the next record-breaking year," said Leon Hermanson, lead author of the WMO's Global Annual-to-Decadal Update.

The last El Nino contributed to making 2023 the second-hottest year on record and 2024 the all-time high at around 1.55C above the pre-industrial average. El Nino is a natural climate phenomenon that warms surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, bringing worldwide changes in winds, pressure and rainfall patterns.

It typically takes place ev-



Birds fly past as the sun sets behind the rooftops in Berlin on May 28, 2026.

ery two to seven years and lasts around nine to 12 months.

- 1.3C to 1.9C range -

The 2015 Paris climate accords aimed to limit global warming to well below 2C above pre-industrial levels and preferably below 1.5C.

The targets are calculated relative to the 1850-1900 average, before humanity widely began industrially burning coal, oil and gas, which emit carbon dioxide -- the greenhouse gas largely responsible for climate change.

"Annual global mean near-surface temperatures during 2026-2030 are predicted to range between 1.3C and 1.9C above the 1850-1900 average," the WMO update said.

The WMO said there was

a 91-percent chance that global average temperatures will temporarily exceed 1.5C above the pre-industrial baseline for at least one year between 2026 and 2030.

Furthermore, there is a 75-percent chance that the entire 2026-2030 five-year mean will exceed 1.5C above the 1850-1900 average. However, it is considered exceptionally unlikely -- less than one percent -- that any single year will exceed 2C above the pre-industrial baseline in the next five years.

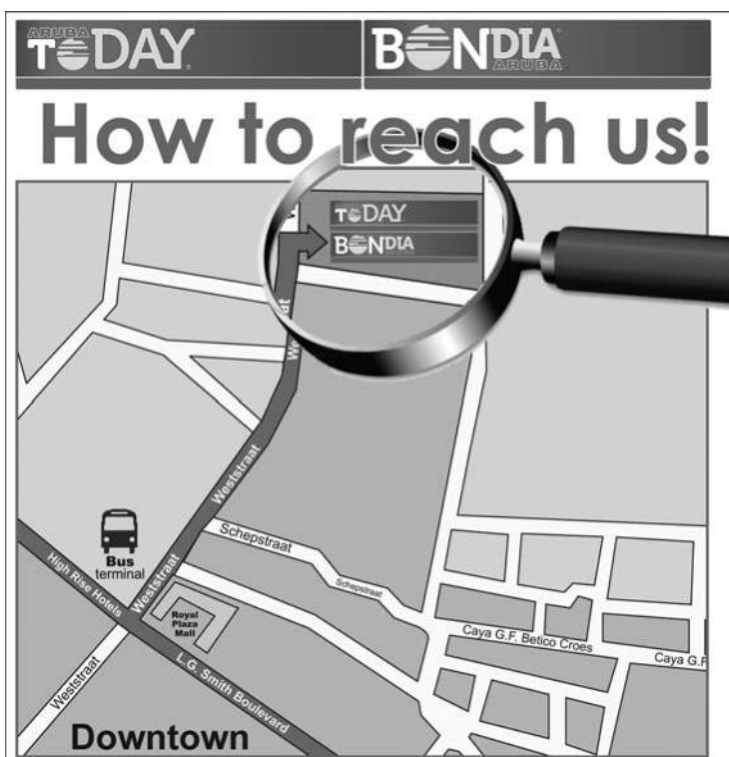
- Arctic heat warning -

The 1.5C barrier is expected to be broken with increasing frequency. The 1.5C and 2C limits in the Paris accords refer to sustained long-term warming typically over 20 years so temporary breaches do

not necessarily mean the long-term goal is out of reach. Last year was one of the three warmest years on record, with the globally averaged near-surface temperature estimated at more than 1.43C above the 1850-1900 baseline.

Bill Hare, chief-executive of the Berlin-based think-tank Climate Analytics, said the WMO's prediction of hotter years to come was the result of countries' failures to cut greenhouse gas emissions at sufficient scale.

"Our research shows that if governments act now to reduce their emissions as quickly as possible, global warming can be halted by mid-century and then returned well below the Paris Agreement limit of 1.5C," he said. The report was produced by Britain's Met Office national weather service and the WMO's lead centre for annual to decadal climate prediction. □



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DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad
Hospital
7:00 pm/10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas
IMSAN
24 HOURS
Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad: Sta. Cruz
Tel. 585 8028

San Nicolas: Centro Medico
Tel. 584 5794

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police 100
Police Oranjestad 527 3140
Police Noord 527 3200
Police Sta. Cruz 527 2900
Police San Nicolas 584 5000
Police Tipline 11141
Ambulance 911
Fire Dept. 115
Red Cross 582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Vingegaard nears Giro triumph as teammate Kuss takes stage 19

Alleghe, Italy

Jonas Vingegaard took another step towards winning his first Giro d'Italia on Friday after emerging unscathed from a brutal 19th stage won by his teammate Sepp Kuss.

Pre-race favourite Vingegaard has one more stage to get through to ensure his overall triumph in the Italian Grand Tour, with Sunday's finale a procession around Rome.

The Visma-Lease a Bike rider stuck in the main peloton all day until the final, punishing climb to Alleghe after 151 kilometres of energy-sapping riding through the Dolomite mountains.

He then made sure that he stayed close to nearest rival Felix Gall, who remains just over four minutes off the pace. Attention now turns to Saturday's penultimate stage, which features two huge climbs to Piancavallo, with Vingegaard knowing that he will reign supreme if he holds out.

"This is for sure one of the highlights of my Giro. It's in the top three," said Vingegaard.

"The big goal will be to stay in the pink jersey after the end of the stage." Vingegaard did concede



Team Visma Lease a Bike U.S rider Sepp Kuss cycles in a lone breakaway in the final ascent to win the 19th stage of the Giro d'Italia 2026 - Tour of Italy cycling race between Feltre and Alleghe, Italy, on May 29, 2026.

the lead of the Mountains standings to Italian Giulio Ciccone, who was first over four of Friday's six classified climbs but was denied a stage win by American Kuss who overtook him in the final two kilometres.

"It was never the primary goal (to win the stage). The main challenge was to win the pink jersey with Jonas," said Kuss, who's mother was watching on from near the finish line.

"When they told me the

other night I had to go in the break, I knew I had to seize the opportunity. It's something I always dreamed of but every year it gets harder and harder.

"Every year that goes by I think it's gonna be even harder to win a stage in the Giro, to complete all three. I can't believe it."

- Ciccone caught, Narvaez out -

Lidl-Trek rider Ciccone trailed Vingegaard by 81

points in the Mountains classification ahead of Friday's stage but more than made up that gap, building up a lead of 57 points. Ciccone had been battling with Einer Rubio on the climbs and when he was pipped by his Movistar rival on the penultimate Passo Falzarego ascent, he shot off angrily down the long descent.

He built up a lead of over a minute but his legs went on his way up to Alleghe and

finished third, behind both Kuss-- now a stage winner on all three Grand Tours -- and Derek Gee-West.

Former Giro champion Jai Hindley climbed to third overall after overhauling Thymen Arensman, who slowed over the final two kilometres and lost a minute on his rival.

Paul Magnier is poised to claim the points jersey after his closest rival Jhonatan Narvaez dropped out early in the stage.

The Frenchman now has a whopping 92-point lead over Jonathan Milan with two stages remaining, including the finale around Rome which will give him a chance for another sprint victory.

Narvaez's team UAE said that the Ecuadorian, who won three stages in this year's Giro, was forced to abandon the race after a "small crash on the transfer back to the bus" on Thursday left him unable to compete on a punishing day.

It was more bad news for the 29-year-old who on Thursday conceded the points jersey to Magnier, the winner of stage 18, and was 37 points behind his French rival before the start of racing on Friday. □

NBA teams approve anti-tanking reforms

Los Angeles, United States

NBA teams on Thursday approved reforms intended to discourage teams from deliberately losing games in order to receive better players in the following season's draft.

The policy of giving bottom-ranked teams better access to upcoming talent, originally intended to keep the league balanced and competitive, has led to widespread "tanking," especially in recent seasons.

Multiple low-ranked teams have benched their best players, even when fit. Some received fines for "management of their rosters," but NBA commissioner Adam Silver warned that the financial penalties weren't working and has

pushed for more potent changes.

Under the new system, the three very worst teams will now be punished by receiving slightly lower odds

of receiving a high pick in the NBA Draft lottery than the teams that finish immediately above them.

Previously, they received the highest odds of picking

first. There will also be more teams in the lottery 16 of the NBA's 30 teams, rather than 14.

The reforms are "designed to eliminate incentives for teams to prioritize their position in the Draft over winning games," and "flattens" lottery odds among the teams, said an NBA statement.

The system, which will take effect from the 2027 draft, is known as the "3-2-1" lottery, referring to the number of lottery balls each team receives.

Seven low-ranked teams will receive three balls each, giving them a roughly eight percent chance each of winning the top draft pick.

But the three lowest-ranked teams will receive

just two balls, and therefore a 5.4 percent chance -- a punishment referred to as being "draft relegated."

Two balls, or just one ball, will be granted to six teams that squeezed into the previous season's play-in tournament by finishing between seventh and tenth in their conference.

While the threat of being "draft relegated" will be a bitter pill to swallow for the league's worst teams, they are afforded a small protection they are guaranteed to be able to pick no lower than 12th in the draft.

The new rules were reportedly approved by representatives of 29 NBA teams at the league's board of governors, with only the Memphis Grizzlies voting against. □



BA Commissioner Adam Silver presents Shai Gilgeous-Alexander #2 of the Oklahoma City Thunder with the Michael Jordan Trophy after being named the NBA's most valuable player before Game One of the NBA Western Conference Finals against the San Antonio Spurs at Paycom Center on May 18, 2026 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Fonseca blasts Djokovic out of French Open after epic comeback

Paris, France

Brazilian teenager Joao Fonseca knocked Novak Djokovic out in the third round of the French Open on Friday to scupper the Serbian great's latest quest for a record 25th Grand Slam.

The 19-year-old Fonseca rallied from two sets down for the second straight match to stun Djokovic with a phenomenal display of power-hitting.

Fonseca triumphed 4-6, 4-6, 6-3, 7-5, 7-5 after four hours and 53 minutes to make it through to the last 16 of a major for the first time.

Asked how he kept believing after falling behind, Fonseca replied: "I actually didn't.

"I just kept playing. I just enjoyed being on court. What a pleasure it was stepping on court with him (Djokovic) for the first time.

"I was trying to hit the ball as fast as I could. Djokovic, he does not miss."

Fonseca will next play two-time Roland Garros runner-up Casper Ruud or American 24th seed Tommy Paul. Djokovic's exit comes a day after the shock elimination of world number one and red-hot title favourite Jan-nik Sinner.

It means there will be a first-time men's Grand Slam



Brazil's Joao Fonseca celebrates after winning against Serbia's Novak Djokovic at the end of their men's singles match on day 6 of the French Open tennis tournament on Court Philippe-Chatrier at the Roland-Garros Complex in Paris on May 29, 2026.

champion this year at the French Open, ending a run of nine successive majors won by Sinner or Carlos Alcaraz.

"What an incredible match to be part of," said Djokovic.

"Huge credit to Joao for really deserving to win the match. Without a doubt he was the better player in crucial moments."

Djokovic has been stuck on 24 majors since the 2023 US Open and may not get a better chance to add to that haul. Two-time de-

fending champion Alcaraz was already absent in Paris due to injury.

"You just have to say well done and congratulate him. He played lights-out tennis," Djokovic said of Fonseca.

"I don't think I've done much wrong with my game. He was just better." Alexander Zverev, a three-time Grand Slam finalist, is best placed to capitalise on the wide open draw. The second seed plays Frenchman Quentin Halys in the night session.

- Swiatek and Andreeva move on -

Iga Swiatek booked her place in the last 16 of the women's draw with a 6-4, 6-4 win over Magda Linette in an all-Polish affair.

Four-time women's champion Swiatek dug herself out of an early 2-0 hole against the 35th-ranked Linette, who won their most recent meeting at Miami in March.

Swiatek broke three times in the opening set to nose ahead, and then surged

into a 4-1 lead in the second set.

She overcame a stumble as she tried to close it out, before sealing victory to set up an intriguing match-up with the in-form Marta Kostyuk.

"It was a good match. I played much better than Miami," said Swiatek, who moved to appoint Francisco Roig, a longtime coach of Rafael Nadal, in the wake of her loss to Linette two months ago.

Kostyuk, the 15th seed, continued her fine run with a 6-4, 6-3 win over Switzerland's Viktorija Golubic.

She is unbeaten in 15 matches on clay this season following titles in Madrid and Rouen.

"Marta is having a great season. She always had a game to play well," said Swiatek.

"So good for her. But I'm going to focus on myself, prepare tactically, as before any other match, and we'll see."

Russian teenager Mirra Andreewa swept into the last 16 with a 6-4, 6-2 victory over Czech 27th seed Marie Bouzkova.

The eighth-seeded Andreewa goes on to face Swiss world number 170 Jil Teichmann, who knocked out former French Open runner-up Karolina Muchova. □

'Age doesn't matter' says veteran Curacao boss Advocaat

London, United Kingdom

Dick Advocaat believes that he and former Old Firm rival Martin O'Neill are proof of how veteran managers can still be successful regardless of age as he returns to Glasgow's Hampden Park with Curacao for a friendly against Scotland.

Former Rangers boss Advocaat will become the oldest manager at a World Cup, at the age of 78, when he leads the Caribbean nation into the tournament against Germany, Ecuador and Ivory Coast. His return to Glasgow for Saturday's match comes a week after 74-year-old O'Neill clinched a domes-

tic league and cup double for Celtic after returning to the Glasgow giants some two decades on from his first stint in Scottish football. "Martin was already a great coach and he proved it again," Advocaat told reporters at a pre-match press conference on Friday. "Age doesn't matter. It is the way you feel.

"Working with people is the most important thing. Working with a group, with different ideas, that makes things interesting.

"Martin O'Neill was also a coach like that, people know exactly what they have to do. If you are clear to players, then they are

clear to you as well.

"That is the way I always worked and I still enjoy it. The good thing is that I am still fit. I feel fit. Otherwise, it would be a different story. I don't feel that age."

Advocaat, who has also coached his native Netherlands and South Korea at previous World Cups, added: "In Holland, I already said so many times that I will quit. And then somebody calls me and is still interested. And then I go." His return to Hampden came 27 years to the day since he won the treble in his first season with Rangers thanks to Rod Wallace's winner against Celtic in the Scottish Cup final.

"It's special," he said. "I

had already some memories with the national team from Holland to play against Scotland, but I didn't expect to play

against Scotland with Curacao.

"I was quite successful here in this stadium. So, you have to be careful." □



Dick Advocaat, Head Coach of Curacao, during the FIFA World Cup 2026 Official Draw at John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts on December 05, 2025 in Washington, DC.

The Westerly Officially Opens, Introducing Elevated Island Hospitality at the Iconic Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort

Highly anticipated boutique-style oceanfront tower debuts on Palm Beach



PALM BEACH – Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino celebrated the grand opening of The Westerly, ushering in a refined expression of elevated island hospitality for the iconic Palm Beach resort. The debut marks a significant evolution of the property, introducing a more intimate guest experience that blends contemporary design, personalized service and dynamic public spaces with Aruba's natural beauty. The milestone was commemorated with an event attended by ownership, Hilton leadership, government officials and key project partners.

Named for Aruba's natural compass, the east-to-west trade winds that shape the island's character and beauty, The Westerly introduces a new level of sophistication to the destination. Blending the intimacy of a boutique hotel with the expansive amenities of Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino, The Westerly offers a refined and elevated guest experience through a seamless balance of privacy, personalized service and immersive island experiences for leisure and business travelers alike.

Set against the backdrop of Aruba's iconic Palm Beach sunsets, the opening marks a continued commitment to the resort's evolution and underscores Hilton's broader growth strategy across the Caribbean and Latin America, a strategic region for the company's growth and development.

"Hilton has a long-standing legacy of creating exceptional stays in the world's most sought-after destinations, and the opening of The Westerly at Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino represents an exciting addition to our portfolio," said Chris Nassetta, president and CEO, Hilton. "This debut reflects our continued focus on delivering elevated, experience-driven hospitality for today's traveler, while building on the strength and momentum of our growth across the Caribbean and Latin America."

"As Hilton's flagship brand, Hilton Hotels & Resorts continues to evolve for today's traveler, creating stays that bring people together for iconic gatherings, celebrations and shared experiences," said Leonard Goetz, global brand leader, Hilton Hotels & Resorts. "The Westerly embodies this renewed vision, placing guests at the heart of Aruba's culture and vibrant energy – delivering an intimate, boutique style stay, seamlessly paired with the robust property amenities and signature service of Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino."

"The Westerly reflects the future of hospitality – thoughtful design, elevated comfort, and a deeper connection to place. What truly sets this property apart is our exceptional Aruban team, whose genuine warmth and dedication bring the experience to life," said Milton Berlinski, managing partner, Reverence Capital and managing director, Aruba Growth Fund. "The Westerly further strengthens Aruba's position in the luxury market catering to the most discerning travelers, while creating meaningful opportunities through jobs, economic growth, and sustained local investment."

"Through The Westerly, we are proud to have created what is today Aruba's most refined and distinctive hospitality tower, home to the island's only rooftop terrace experience, Terrace on 10," said Rene Kan, managing director, Aruba Growth Fund. "The Westerly and our existing property mark the first

resort in Aruba developed entirely with local financing, a milestone that reflects our Aruban ownership and our long-term belief in Aruba, its people, and its future."

Ushering in a New Era of Island Hospitality

Situated directly on Palm Beach, The Westerly features 161 oversized guest rooms and suites with balconies, including ocean front accommodations with expansive terraces and select adults-only swim-up options. Each space is designed to showcase sweeping views of the Caribbean Sea while delivering a sense of comfort, sophistication, and place.

Designed by Jeffrey Beers International in collaboration with SB Architects, The Westerly's interiors reflect a contemporary interpretation of mid-century design, blending natural materials, warm textures, and locally inspired details. Seamless indoor-outdoor living, bespoke furnishings, and curated in-room amenities create a residential feel that invites guests to fully unwind.

Guests of The Westerly enjoy an elevated arrival experience, including private check-in and dedicated concierge service, along with priority access to premium resort offerings such as eforea spa treatments and enhanced beach and pool experiences. In-room touches include wellness-focused amenities such as Best Rest Bar, featuring sleep masks and calming pillow spray, locally inspired products, and personalized offerings designed to reflect the spirit of Aruba.

To further enhance their stay, guests can add access to The Westerly's crown jewel, the new Terrace on 10, a unique adults-only rooftop experience with panoramic ocean views, locally inspired cuisine, and expertly crafted cocktails. The dynamic space transitions from tranquil daytime relaxation - with wellness programming such as Pilates and guided breath work - to vibrant evening energy with live entertainment and social experiences.

Set within the 15-acre **Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino** property, The Westerly provides guests with full access to the resort's renowned dining, wellness, and entertainment offerings, while maintaining a distinct sense of exclusivity and retreat.

Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino was the first luxury resort in Aruba and remains an icon in both

the destination and the hospitality industry. The resort offers 358 spacious guest rooms and suites, in addition to the accommodations at The Westerly. The resort recently debuted a renovated eforea spa offering a relaxing escape just steps away from the ocean, boasting unique treatments and standout amenities like cold plunge pools and a tranquil relaxation space.

Guests can enjoy eight dining options, from casual beachside snacks to lobby libations and signature beachfront dining at the brand-new Shore Club restaurant, located just steps away from Aruba's iconic Palm Beach offering an elevated menu of internationally inspired cuisine and signature cocktails. Just steps from the sand, the spacious sun deck has been thoughtfully designed with stylish touches that add a casual chic vibe. Perched above the restaurant, Shore Club's exclusive rooftop boasts panoramic views of the Caribbean Sea and the sparkling white sands of Palm Beach. Additional options include Sunset Bar, where the original "Aruba Ariba" cocktail was created, Sunset Grille, a prime steakhouse and the resort's signature restaurant.

Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino is also the only resort on the island to offer three distinct rooftop experiences, including Terrace on 10 at The Westerly, Shore Club's sunset rooftop, and the iconic Palm Beach Club. Groups can take advantage of over 60,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor event space, including the 8,100 square foot Grand Morris Lapidus Ballroom – designed to serve as the background for iconic events and gatherings Hilton Hotels & Resorts is known for. Guests can also try their luck at the Las Vegas-style casino, featuring a live poker room.

With its official debut, The Westerly establishes a new benchmark for premium travel in Aruba, inviting travelers to experience a fresh perspective on island hospitality. □

For more information or reservations at The Westerly, visit thewesterly.com. For more information about Hilton Hotels & Resorts, visit [Stories from Hilton](https://StoriesfromHilton.com).

